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# QUARTERLY BULLETIN OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARY

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NOTE AND NEWS .. .. .	67
OLIVE SCHREINER, 1855-1920 .. .	69
THE FIRST ANAESTHETIC AT THE CAPE .. .	72
CHARLES AKEN FAIRBRIDGE AND HIS LIBRARY—II..	74
NEW SOUTH AFRICAN PERIODICALS .. .	94
GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED .. .	95
RECENT PUBLICATIONS FROM AND ABOUT SOUTH AFRICA: CLASSIFIED BIBLIOGRAPHY .. .	98

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### NOTES AND NEWS

On 22 February 1955 the first positive step was taken to establish an Association of Friends of the South African Library when, at a public meeting held in the Fairbridge Library, a Council of ten members, with power to co-opt, was elected to draft a constitution and to refer this back to a second public meeting. This Council is already at work.

At the inaugural meeting, which was attended by more than 120 members of the public, Mr. Justice van Winsen, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Library, outlined the reasons which had prompted the Trustees to suggest the formation of the new Association. The response to the "feelers" sent out by the Library in the form of an illustrated brochure was distinctly encouraging; favourable replies came not only from the Cape but from all the main centres in the Union and Rhodesia, and even from Sweden, Portugal and the United Kingdom. For this and other reasons it had been decided to take the matter further.

Although it is too early to predict the future of the new Association, there seems little doubt that there is a widespread and genuine interest in the work and activities of the Library, and further developments will be recorded in the forthcoming numbers of this *Bulletin*.

\* \* \*

Admirers of the work of the late Dr. Francis Brett Young, and especially of his books with a South African background, will be interested to learn that a number of items from his personal library have been presented to the South African Library in his memory, by Mrs. Brett Young. Apart from reading editions of the classics of literature they include a number of works in French, and a set of translations of Dr. Brett Young's own writings in a number of foreign languages. It will be recalled that the author of *The City of Gold* and *They seek a country*, books widely read and enjoyed in this generation, returned to South Africa after the last War partly for reasons of health, and that his last years were spent in the Cape, first at St. James', and later in the Little Karoo town of Montagu. He died in Cape Town in 1954.

\* \* \*

We are privileged to print in this number of the *Bulletin* an article specially written by Dr. Louis Herrman on Olive Schreiner and her work, to mark the centenary of her birth on 24 March 1855. A striking and unusual character, Olive Schreiner is better known for *The Story of an African Farm* than for her later writings of a political, humanitarian and even mystical nature, or for her work in the cause of Feminism. These other aspects of her character and achievement will be illustrated in an exhibition which is being arranged in the South African Library during March, 1955. This will consist of original manuscripts, printed works, photographs and personal mementos of Olive Schreiner, and is being organised in collaboration with the Oliver Schreiner Scholarship Fund Committee. This Committee, which numbers among its Patrons Her Excellency Mrs. E. G. Jansen, has been formed to perpetuate the memory of the writer, and to found an Olive Schreiner Scholarship for Women at the Universities.

An appeal signed by a number of well-known South Africans has appeared in the Press, and readers of this *Bulletin* who wish to do so are invited to send contributions, to be made payable to The Olive Schreiner Scholarship Fund, to the Hon. Treasurer, Department of English, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch, Cape.

\* \* \*

Of topical interest is a volume of letters published recently which trace the fortunes and inter-relationship of two South African families of the last century—the Findlays and the Schreiners (*The Findlay letters, 1806-1870*. Pretoria, van Schaik, 1954). Transcribed and edited with care and skill by the late Mrs. Joan Findlay these family records provide encouraging evidence of the new interest that is being taken in the social history of the past three centuries in this country.



## OLIVE SCHREINER

March 24th 1855 — December 11th 1920

The usual fate of a best-selling novel is to be rarely read after a few months, and mostly forgotten after a few years. It was not so with Olive Schreiner's famous novel.

*The Story of an African Farm* was published in 1883. It challenged traditional moral values; it revealed for the first time to English readers aspects of South African life; it was the first contribution of any account to imaginative English literature by a born South African, and it continued to be virtually the only one for more than a generation after its first appearance. It made Olive Schreiner famous.

It is often stated of Olive Schreiner that she was the writer of one book on which her reputation solely rests. The statement is not surprising since relatively few of the numerous readers of *The Story of an African Farm* are attracted by, or indeed have any knowledge of, her eight or nine other books. It is true to this extent, that not one of her other books has nearly those merits which are peculiarly attached to this the author's first published work.

The circumstances attending its appearance combined with its real artistic worth to extend that interest which its first publication aroused. The young authoress, born and bred on a lonely mission station in the Cape Colony on the border of Basutoland, having grown up with next to no formal education, and having no experience of the great world and the life of cities, arrived with her manuscript in England in 1881. She had written her story whilst supporting herself as governess, or farm school teacher, in the remote karoo—remote at that date as few places in South Africa are today—many hours' journey by cart from Cradock, the nearest village. The materials of her novel were the dry and dreary African scene that she knew so well, the people she encountered and amongst whom she lived, and her own intense emotional and intellectual life. All were fresh to the English-speaking public, untapped literary sources which she used with complete integrity and a touch of inborn genius.

Her preparation for the task of writing was an education acquired by eager, attentive and wide reading, and by converse with a cultured mother. She never learned to spell correctly to the end of her life, though she acquired the habit, at a very early age, of committing her thoughts to paper. *The Story of an African Farm* was not the first heir of her invention, for she had written an earlier novel which she finished at the age of 17. It was published by her husband nearly sixty years later.

By nature she was reflective, and even in childhood pondered on the great problems of life, death and eternity, of religion and human behaviour. The vivid little picture in the *African Farm*, entitled "The Sacrifice", is a moving

description of passionate effort on the part of a child, herself the original, at communion with God. The Almighty refuses the sacrifice by the child, Waldo, of the mutton chop that is his dinner, and he is therefore plunged into profound despair by the certainty that he is damned. But she early revolted against the narrow evangelism of the pious missionary home, and by the time she had reached the age of fourteen she had learned to think outside the bounds of the conventional and the permissible on both social and religious matters. Even at that age she refused any longer to go to church or to read the Bible, in a generation when freethought was denounced as wickedness, and in an environment where she horrified those she loved, even suffering persecution by a more pious and less tolerant brother and sister.

The same fearless moral independence early characterised her thinking about men and women and the social, legal and economic relations of the sexes. Both intellectually and emotionally she reacted vigorously against the subordination of women and the restrictions, small and great, that they suffered in her generation. The attainment for women of full equality with men in every sphere became a leading aim in her life. But her fight for women's rights was supplemented by a deep love of mankind, a true philanthropy; and though she abjured Christianity her works are filled with reverence for the Divine, just as her abandonment of the Bible did not prevent the eloquence and dignity of its diction permeating, and at times transfiguring, her prose.

Her ideals and her beliefs, together with a loving observation of Nature and an intuitive sympathy with those about her, the young and thoughtful in particular, gave substance to her simple, unexciting tale of the backveld. The book kindled a torch for thousands of enquiring minds in a period when traditional thinking was beginning to be scrutinised. Few novels have so truly reflected the personality of the author to an equal extent. It was this quality perhaps that, in spite of obvious crudities, commended her novel to George Meredith who chose it for publication by Chapman and Hall by whom he was employed as reader. The book was an immediate success. The small edition in two volumes, with the author's name given as "Ralph Iron", was sold out, and a new one-volume edition issued within six months, with a dedication to Mrs. John Brown, a pioneer in the Woman's Movement and a friend from whom the author had received sympathetic encouragement. The name of Olive Schreiner became known though it was not published on the title-page of her book until the edition of 1887 was issued. The successful novel brought her fame and friends though very little money. A successful woman novelist, when woman novelists were still rare; and one who had boldly attacked conventional values both social and religious; a "Colonial" from a far corner of the Empire, young and beautiful, she found herself a literary lion.

Her work was praised by all manner of eminent persons of no particular literary discrimination—the great statesman W. E. Gladstone, the Empire-

builder Cecil Rhodes—as well as by writers and critics: so wide was its appeal. It ran into many editions and was translated into several foreign languages. Today, when all the other books of the author are out of print with no particular prospect of revival, new editions of *The Story of an African Farm* continue to appear. Within the last seventy years it has passed from the category of the best-sellers into that of the classics. And lest it should be supposed that the estimates of judges at the time were moved by the fortuitous elements in its success, correction may be sought by reference to a modern appraisal by a competent critic. George Sampson, writing in the *Cambridge Concise History of English Literature*, says of it:

"Slight in substance and faulty in construction, this book was nevertheless a creation of genius. It divines more than it understands. The girl, Lyndall, closely imprisoned in the strictest of conventions, religious, moral and domestic, declares and attains independence of belief, thought and action. In the very quietness of the story lies its main strength. It proclaims nothing; it intimates nothing. Many young people of that time and later can date their first religious questionings and their first motions towards moral independence from a reading of this extraordinary little story, in which the author herself exhausted her own inspiration . . ."

She exhausted, at least, her artistic inspiration; for she never produced another novel. Two other novels by her, published posthumously, *From Man to Man* (1926) and *Undine* (1929), add nothing to her literary fame. Both are inferior to the *African Farm*. Both were conceived, and *Undine* was actually completed, before that work was begun. *Undine* is mere apprentice work, and it is certain that the author never intended to publish it. Cronwright did not know of its existence until after his wife's death. *From Man to Man* was left unfinished, though Olive Schreiner had worked at it (one might almost say "played" at it, for she loved it) writing, revising and rewriting it over a period of forty-five years. She made it a vehicle for her extended opinions on life and human society and all its works. It is doubtful whether she would ever have finished it and brought herself to part with it to a publisher.

Cronwright told the present writer, shortly after her death, that his wife had left two boxes of manuscripts with instructions that they were to be burnt. He intended, he said, to carry out her wishes. After the lapse of a year or two, he had apparently been induced perhaps by Havelock Ellis, to change his mind, for he admitted that he was in negotiation with publishers; and two posthumous volumes by Olive Schreiner appeared in 1923. They were *Stray Thoughts on South Africa*, collected pieces mainly on political and social questions written and originally published in periodicals in 1892 and 1896; and a volume entitled *Stories, Dreams and Allegories*. Within the next six years the two novels mentioned above appeared with introductions by S. C. C. Cronwright.

Olive Schreiner wrote throughout her life, but with frequent and long intervals between the bouts of writing, partly attributable to the painful asthmatic attacks from which she was a lifelong sufferer. Her writings

subsequent to the publication of the *African Farm*, both books and pamphlets, were mostly ardent pleas in support of liberal and humane causes. Many of them took the simplified form, with its heightened emotional appeal and its Biblical air, of allegories and parables. She attacked British imperialism in *Trooper Peter Halket* (1897); she wrote to prevent the Anglo-Boer War, and when it came she took the side of the Boers. When the Kaiser's War broke out she wrote a pacifist allegory and remained a determined pacifist throughout the war; she opposed injustice and exploitation of native peoples; she wrote a pamphlet condemning the tyrannical Czarist persecution of the Jews in Russia. She wrote in favour of South African Union in 1909, on the side of Federation. She wrote above all, on every aspect of the feminist cause, using all her powerful literary talent in the attack on the disabilities of women.

Her lifelong devotion to the cause of the Woman's Movement found its most notable expression in *Woman and Labour* (1911), a powerful and eloquent pro-feminist work on the social aspects of the relation of the sexes, a fragment, as she explains in the preface, of a lost larger work on Woman that had occupied many years of her life, but that had been burnt in manuscript, in Johannesburg, during the Anglo-Boer War.

Her total output was not great. But all her writings exhibit her fine mastery of language and natural aptness of imagery, gifts that were evident in her speech when her enthusiasm was roused; for she was a brilliant talker, animated, warmhearted and (though one might not guess it from her books) with a sense of fun and a gift of mimicry, even to the end of her life.

LOUIS HERRMAN

### THE FIRST ANAESTHETIC AT THE CAPE

The celebrated operation performed by Dr. William Guybon Atherstone of Grahamstown under general ether anaesthesia upon the Deputy Sheriff of Albany has always been accepted as the first medical use of an anaesthetic agent in South Africa.<sup>1</sup> This epoch-making event took place in June 1847, barely nine months after an American, W. T. Morton, had demonstrated at the Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, that ether could be used as a general anaesthetic agent. News of the American operation was brought directly to the Cape by sailing vessel, and Dr. Atherstone performed his operation as a result of it, without any knowledge of European progress in anaesthesia.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Graham's Town Journal, 26 June 1847.

<sup>2</sup> Atherstone, W. G. (1897): S. Afr. Med. J., 4, 246.

When the South African Medical Association met in Congress in Grahamstown nearly fifty years later, in 1896, the local branch of the Association arranged for a paper to be presented on "Anaesthesia", "since"—it was minuted—"this (year) is the Jubilee of Anaesthesia, and Dr. W. G. Atherstone having been the first to administer anaesthetics in this Colony . . ."<sup>3</sup> And Dr. Atherstone himself stated at the Congress, in reminiscing over his famous use of ether in 1847, "This was its first use out of America and Europe."<sup>2</sup>

But it is possible that the honours belong to Cape Town.

On the shelves of the South African Public Library reposes a slender bound volume of a medical periodical issued in Cape Town in 1847—the *Cape Town Medical Gazette*. Only four numbers were ever issued, and—as far as it is possible to be certain of this—the Library's copy is the only one still in existence. Now it is fortunate indeed that the intellectual vigour of the mid-nineteenth century Cape reached its peak in the year when anaesthesia became established in the medical world; its editorials would seem to establish Cape Town's claim to priority over Grahamstown in this field. In the third number (July 1847) the editorial proclaimed a new era for medical science with the advent of anaesthesia. Great excitement reigned in Europe, it stated, over the introduction of ether from America, where it had already been used "frequently".

"In our early trials in April"—ran the editorial—"a bullock's bladder distended with air and one fluid ounce of ether and fitted with a sponge mouthpiece" was used to produce analgesia, the nostrils being compressed during inspiration. Later trials were carried out with the London apparatus, "Smee's", in which valves prevented admixture of inspired and expired air; however, the only advantage of this apparatus over the bullock's bladder was one of comfort. "In two or three of our own cases want of success attended our efforts to produce perfect insensibility to pain . . . On the whole, however, (it had been) found to be an effectual mode of producing perfect insensibility to pain". By the October number, two below-knee amputations performed under general anaesthesia at the end of July could be reported. "In the first the patient, a woman of about 55 years of age, was but partially under the influence of the ether when the first incision was made. She afterwards declared that the sound of the saw passing through her bones gave her the first intimation of the operation having been commenced . . . this case had done remarkably well". The second case was not so successful, due to faulty apparatus. No names are mentioned in the *Medical Gazette*, but one can speculate that the surgeon-anaesthetist was either its editor, the young Dr. Ebden (writing in the editorial plural) or Henry Bickersteth, "Surgeon of the Hospital", and the venue the Somerset Hospital.

<sup>3</sup> Minutes of Eastern Medical Association, 20 November 1896.

The difficulty arises in the interpretation of some of these quoted passages. Does, for instance, "our early trials in April" imply a full-scale operation? The fact that ether was found to be "an effectual mode of producing perfect insensibility to pain" suggests that it *was* actually administered, and one cannot conceive the ethic of medicine being even at that date at such low ebb that an anaesthetic substance was given merely to test its own properties, without some indication existing for "putting the patient under". On the other hand, the experimental nature of the "early trials" is later emphasised by another passage, stating that "the experiments have not been confined to the human subject, inasmuch as a veterinarian in Cape Town has used it also with success on cows and horses".

The question stands: Were the experimental "early trials" of the Cape Town doctors in April 1847 connected with the carrying out of surgical operations? If they were, then the plaque of the Historical Monuments Commission in Grahamstown, commemorating Dr. Atherstone's *first* use of anaesthesia in South Africa, is clearly misplaced.

EDMUND H. BURROWS

## CHARLES AKEN FAIRBRIDGE AND HIS LIBRARY

### II LITERARY AND BIBLIOGRAPHICAL WORK

Obituarists have commented on the extent of the literary contributions that Charles Fairbridge made to Cape newspapers and magazines.<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately pseudonyms and anonymity were so much in vogue in his day that if much from his pen was published, the greater part is now lost. One amusing work however which was known to be his was *Dirk van Splinter; a legend of the Devil's Peak*, which appeared in the *Cape of Good Hope literary magazine* (vol.2, pt.5, Feb. 1848), a journal edited by James L. Fitzpatrick. This light-hearted tale which is signed "H. van Plaaks", pretends to be based on a Dutch manuscript in the Dessinian Collection of the S.A. Public Library and is of particular interest because it is a variant of the Van Hunks and the Devil "legend" explaining the origin of the Table Mountain cloud. The pretended manuscript is claimed to be the journal of "the Rev. Barendz Weiland, private chaplain to Jan van Riebeeck", 1652-59. Willem Barentsz Wijlant

<sup>1</sup> It is not without significance that in the first issue of the *Cape Times* on March 27th 1876, the editor felt obliged to discount rumours that C.A.F. was behind the new venture.



was in actual fact, the sick-comforter who came out with the Founder—but that is by the way. The Dirk van Splinter of the story is, like van Hunks, a retired pirate. Appointed chief gunner of the Cape fortress, he spends most of his time smoking. In search of further riches he climbs Table Mountain to dig for gold. He drinks too much and falls asleep, only waking after sunset. After further recourse to the bottle he brags that if the Devil himself appear, he would “twist his horn for a stiver”. Of course the Devil does appear—incognito—and they sit and drink and smoke amicably for some time. Dirk soon notices that the smoke from the other’s pipe does not disperse but forms a cloud over the Mountain. They sing ribald songs together until Dirk spots the Devil’s tail which the latter uses to light his pipe with. He slashes at it with his cudgel and the result makes him realise who his companion is. He then proceeds to knock the Devil’s pipe down his throat, after which a terrific crash of thunder renders Dirk insensible. He comes to next morning and is taken before the Governor who, after close interrogation, bribes him with a seat on the Council never to recount his experience to anyone else.

The story is summarised here as a few years ago Dr. Robert Wahl made an effort to trace the association of the Van Hunks legend with Table Mountain.<sup>2</sup> The story as told by Ian Colvin in *The Romance of South Africa* centres round a smoking match between the pirate and the Devil which is presumed to have been borrowed from Rossetti’s poem *The Ballad of Van Hunks*, which concerns no pirate but a hard-hearted miser of Dordrecht who challenges the Evil One to a smoking match with disastrous results. This poem however—said to have been conceived about the year 1847—was only published in 1909 and could not have been known to Fairbridge.

Colvin declared that he was also ignorant of it. Rossetti indeed said that the idea for the *Ballad* came from a short story *Henkerwyssel’s challenge*, appearing in a periodical *Tales of chivalry*. This was first printed in the annual *Winter’s wreath* for 1829 and may conceivably have come to Fairbridge’s notice as well. The Hans Henkerwyssel of this story is undoubtedly a retired pirate, though not specifically named so, who met his end in the manner adopted by Rossetti. Even if Fairbridge did not know this story, it is hard to believe that Colvin did not know either. The problem is still not satisfactorily settled.

Fairbridge’s style is a very readable one, with a wit now and then shot with a cynical dig at contemporary affairs. The following thrusts are typical:

“It was a pleasant sort of sinecure [the post of chief gunner at the fortress], something like a berth in the Mixed Commission Court.”

“... members of council were as easily picked up then as now . . .”

Another contribution to the *Cape of Good Hope literary magazine* was an article entitled *Sarawak and its Rajah*, which appeared in the October issue

<sup>2</sup> See Rossetti (D.G.) *Jan van Hunks*, edited from the original MSS. by John Robert Wahl. New York public library, 1952.

of 1848 (v.2, p.496-516) over the initial "F." This is a straightforward account of the activities of James Brooke before and after his assumption of the title of Rajah of Sarawak and of the state of that country. It was clearly based on *Narrative of events in Borneo and Celebes down to the occupation of Labuan; from the journal of James Brooke . . . Rajah of Sarawak . . . together with a narrative of the operations of H.M.S. Iris, by Capt. Rodney Mundy*, which was published the same year and of which there is a copy in the collection. References are also made to several other authorities also to be found there.

The only other work of pure literature which can definitely be ascribed to him is an amusing piece of satire in the pages of the *Cape monthly magazine* of February 1857 (vol.1, p.97-104) entitled *The pleasures and advantages of debt*, by J. W. Dunnup. Here he shows how he could really command words with full-blooded vigour. The essay sets out to show exactly what the title suggests, as contributed by one who is himself a debtor and a scrounger. He succeeds admirably. Here is an example in his best vein:

"Have you reader . . . every been seduced into a pic-nic party on board a steamer? Probably you have—and if so, you will well remember that as the quaking, quivering, rattling monster seethes and surges, and rolls and plunges, and wobbles up and down, now playfully going right into the spray, which ruins your best coat; now cheerfully puffing a fetid, black cloud into your face, so pale, so woe-begone—how you, hapless, misguided land-lubber, lay supinely stretched, with a reckless disregard of everything in the wide world, in the lee scuppers, desiring nothing better than to be hanged and put out of your misery, and the milk of human kindness in your bosom curdling to an acid and malignant whey, at the proposition of some monster to try a bit of fat pork. You will remember when the excursion accursed is accomplished, and you emerge from the floating Hades, once more to tread the Elysian fields, or streets, or mother earth; have purified your all-be-draggled outer-man, and comforted the inner one—late in such dire convulsion—and with a dram of imperial cognac or humble gin, how you rise superior to the past, tread the ground with a firm and joyous step, and ultimately sink to a rest the more soothing for the sorrows undergone. Not less sweet is the delicious calm which succeeds the storm which rattles about the ears of the moneyless wight after surmounting the difficulties of his bill."

In the issue of the *Cape monthly magazine* for December 1857 there appears a review of a book on Maori proverbs by Sir George Grey<sup>3</sup> which may also be by Fairbridge, as the initials "C.A.F.?" have been subscribed in the S.A.P.L. copy.

A valuable work to which he did indeed put his name is: *Catalogue of books relating to South Africa. Compiled by Charles A. Fairbridge and John Noble. Cape Town: printed for the Colonial and Indian exhibition committee by W. A. Richards & Sons, 1886. 8vo. 42p.*

Based on his own collection and that of the South African Public Library, this was the first bibliography to be published bearing exclusively on Africa south of the Zambesi and lists over 600 items. In his *South African bibliography*, 1910, Mendelssohn pays tribute to it as being of the utmost value to

<sup>3</sup> *Ko Nga Whakapepeha me Nga Whakaahuareka A Nga Tipuna o Aotea Roa &c. Cape Town, Saul Solomon; London, Trübner, 1857.*

him both in his own book buying and in compiling his bibliography. John Noble, the co-author, was Clerk of the House of Assembly from 1865-1897 and editor of the *Cape monthly magazine* from 1876-1881. In the preface to this catalogue the compilers stated that it did not include collections of voyages and travels, parliamentary papers and blue books or pamphlets, which would have extended its limits too greatly. Mr. Fairbridge however, it was remarked, had compiled a separate list of pamphlets "almost as complete as it is possible to compile", which might one day see publication. This hope was never realised but the manuscript is in the S.A. Public Library and runs to over 400 leaves, some in Fairbridge's own hand and some in another's.<sup>4</sup>

That Fairbridge intended to publish a much extended revision of the *Catalogue* without Noble's assistance, is clear from manuscripts also in the Library. One of these is a foolscap book of fifty-seven pages with which a copy of the original *Catalogue* has been interleaved, containing many corrigenda and addenda. The title-page has been amended to read: *An Attempt towards a General Catalogue of Books and Tracts relating to South Africa including those containing notices of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope and Natal; Essayed by Charles A. Fairbridge, With an Introduction and Appendix.* The amendments are in italics.

Another proposed draft of this bibliography is also preserved. It was of course never published with the exception of that portion which appears as section G. of the *Catalogue of the Fairbridge Library* of 1904, but must be regarded as the first attempt at a comprehensive South African bibliography.

### The Fairbridge Catalogue

This is a convenient place to give some account of the Catalogue of the Collection that was published in 1904.<sup>5</sup> It was originally planned by the collector himself and the S.A. Public Library possesses the first draft of part of it of which much is in Fairbridge's hand. He died before it was completed however and after his death Mrs. Fairbridge asked Professor H. E. S. Fremantle to carry it on. Fremantle who held the joint chair of English and Philosophy at the South African College from 1899-1903 and later went into politics, becoming M.L.A. for Uitenhage in 1906, did not finish the work either and it was entrusted to the Rev. Joseph Watkin Williams, acting Rector of St. Saviour's, Claremont and chaplain to the Archbishop of Cape Town. Although Williams was in 1901 elevated to the bishopric of St. John's, Kaffraria, it is believed that it was he who completed the work of compilation.

<sup>4</sup> The arrangement of this list is by broad subject, but within each one entry is made under title in chronological order.

<sup>5</sup> *The Fairbridge Library: a catalogue of the collection of books formed by the late Charles Aken Fairbridge and preserved at Sea Point, Cape Colony. Privately printed, MCMIV. xvi, 491p. 25cm. The catalogue is divided into the nine classes detailed on p.81.*

When the Catalogue finally went to press in 1904 however, it was in the care of yet a third editor—F. G. Stokes—who appended a brief editorial note in which he explained that he had collated all the titles with the British Museum catalogue. Who F. G. Stokes was—he simply gives his initials and we are indebted to Mendelssohn for the name—it has not been possible to discover, and it is conceivable that he was not a South African at all. The Catalogue was printed by the honourable firm of T. & A. Constable of Edinburgh.

### III FAIRBRIDGE AS BOOK COLLECTOR

To learn most about Charles Fairbridge's book collecting one should visit the room which houses the Collection to-day—the catholicity of his taste is there displayed in all its glory.

The writer of his obituary notice in *South Africa*, July 22nd 1893, tells us that:

"All his life he ransacked—personally or through agents—the bookstalls of Europe and the world. From the most erudite work to the most trivial pamphlet, nothing was missed. His library of works treating of our land was probably the finest in the world . . ."

We have no cause to doubt that before the Mendelssohn Collection was made, this was so.

The Africana section of his library does not preponderate however. He was particularly fond of rare items of all kinds and was said to possess unusual powers of discrimination which enabled him to detect forgery or fraud at a glance. Books to Charles Fairbridge however were not mere collector's pieces to be placed richly bound on his shelves and not read—indeed, had their rarity alone been his interest, he might have left them in their "original boards". He was indeed a bibliophile in the widest and best sense and loved books for what they were and what they gave him. He was wont to say, we are told, that the acid test of a lover of literature was the will to read, and the ability to enjoy, the *Faerie Queen* of Spenser!

As we have noticed in the biographical sketch above, he started collecting books at an early age and a few more came to him from his father, the doctor. A note on the fly-leaf of the S.A. Library's annotated copy of the *Catalogue* of 1904 reads: "Begun by J.W.F., many lost in fire when house was burnt", but we have no confirmation of this statement which presumably came from Miss Dorothea Fairbridge who superintended the handing over of the Collection to the Library. Which house is referred to is not known—certainly not "Mimosas"—nor is it clear if this means the loss of books belonging to Dr. J. W. Fairbridge before his death or after.

Naturally Fairbridge received many books by gift—several from their authors—and also bought at local sales such as that of Ds. G. W. A. van der Lingen at Paarl in 1870,<sup>6</sup> but the greater part of his collecting was done through English booksellers. From one of these, E. W. Stibbs of Museum Street, London, a letter has been accidentally preserved. This letter reports having had certain books bound for Mr. Fairbridge ready to be sent to the latter's agent in Southampton for shipment to Cape Town. Sometimes, like many keen collectors, he pasted a cutting from the bookseller's catalogue into the relevant volume to show the price he originally paid—a price hardly credible to-day—while other cuttings he kept classified in folders. From these we can learn that Pinkerton's *Voyages* (17 volumes) were bought for only £5 10s. and the four volumes of the first edition of Lavater's *Physiognomische Fragmente* (1775-78) for £5 7s. Strutt's *Regal and ecclesiastical antiquities of England* with 72 coloured plates, cost a mere £3 3s. For Cobbett's *State trials* (33 volumes) however, he had to pay £31 10s. which is somewhat in excess of present day prices.<sup>7</sup>

Now and then he made his own note of the purchase in a book, as for instance in the magnificent copy of Levaillant's *Histoire naturelle des oiseaux d'Afrique*, 6v., Paris, 1799-1808, where he wrote "I purchased this copy at Antwerp in June 1867 for 140 francs"—a sum equivalent at the then rate of exchange to about £5 10s. This book is worth well over £200 to-day.

Another interesting item among his papers is a "Memo of Books with prices paid for them" detailing thirty-seven Africana items bought in Holland with prices in guilders which are even more remarkable than those quoted above. With the guilder at 1s. 8d., Schouten's *Reistogt* of 1780 for fl.3.50 and Spilbergen's *Journael* of 1648 for fl.5.00 will amply illustrate the fortunate position of the few Africana collectors of the late nineteenth century. Other items in this list were the Dutch edition of Leguat (fl.5.00), Houtman (fl.4.00), Stavorinus (fl.2.50), and the *Life of Dr. van der Kemp* (fl.1.90). On the same sheet of paper is a list of a dozen items purchased from Federick Muller of Amsterdam. These included several manuscripts and pictures.

On occasion, of course, Fairbridge would manage a trip to England and the Continent and would then glut himself with bookshops; in fact Mrs. Fairbridge used to say that when he failed to turn up for an appointment—as not infrequently happened—he was sure to be found at the top of a ladder in the inmost recesses of a bookseller's. What bibliophile would blame him?

<sup>6</sup> See van der Lingen (G.W.A.) *Catalogus van een belangrijke verzameling goed geconditioneerde boeken . . . benevens een groot aantal kostbare plaatwerken . . . eindelijk een collectie schilderijen in olieverw . . .* Paarl, October, 1870. There were 4,000 volumes offered at this sale covering a wide variety of subjects. The S.A. Public Library was among the bidders.

<sup>7</sup> Present day prices for these items are in the neighbourhood of £16, £25, £20 and £15 respectively.

The most considerable document connected with the Library's acquisition that is known to us, is a manuscript catalogue in a worn octavo volume of 174 pages, thumb-indexed and dated May 1851—presumably the month of its beginning. The latest imprint date of any book recorded in it is 1877, so it must have been in use at least up to that year though not much longer. It also contains an estimate of the number of volumes in the Collection at 1st January 1877, which was 5,596. The number at his death was about 7,250. Considering the owner's reputation, the writing is remarkably clear and legible. The entries are single lines only but dates of publication are always given. At the end there is a list in rough of twenty-four missing books, of which one is glad to say several came back or were replaced. Next to this list he saw fit to paste in a cutting from the *Madras Athenaeum* of 10th October 1851 on the question of borrowing books. Here, strange to tell, an advertisement is quoted from the *South African Commercial Advertiser* of 16th April 1851 inserted by Fairbridge as executor of J. L. Fitzpatrick, editor of the *Cape literary magazine*, calling for the return of books belonging to the estate of the deceased. In ink is added the regretful remark "The books underlined were returned—but many more are missing, besides the others."

On an earlier page is copied out, under the title "To remove stains from books", an extract from an article in Dr. Abraham Rees's *Cyclopaedia*, vol. 4 (1819)—"Books—Whitening of." Spirits of salts, a mixture of oxalic, citric and tartaric acids, and sulphuret of potash are among the preparations recommended for the removal of different kinds of blemishes.

Fairbridge was in the habit of compiling long lists of desiderata by no means all of which he was successful in obtaining, and while no exact date can be put to these miscellaneous papers, from the dates of some items it is clear that he continued his collecting until shortly before his death.

He also managed to amass a fair collection of pictures, both paintings and engravings. These it should be pointed out, in view of statements that have sometimes been made, did not form part of the collection presented to the South African Library by Sir Abe Bailey, but were dispersed—some being now in possession of members of the family and the rest disposed of at the sale of the contents of the house "Paradise" after the death of Dorothea Fairbridge in 1931.<sup>8</sup>

### The Collection

The Fairbridge Library numbers about 7,250 volumes of which some 1,200 are not in the Fairbridge Room but in the stackroom above. The actual number of titles as given by the Catalogue is 4,508, of which a few were

<sup>8</sup> See *Catalogue of the Fairbridge Collection to be sold by public auction . . . at "Paradise", Monmouth Ave., Claremont on Nov. 18th, 19th (1931) and following days.*



found to be wanting when the books came to the South African Library. This total is made up as follows:—

A. Languages and Literature .. .. .	1,098
B. Fine Arts (including Bibliography and Typography)	157
C. History (including Heraldry & Genealogy) .. ..	1,077
D. Geography .. .. .	780
E. Natural science and Mathematics .. .. .	316
F. Theology and Ecclesiastical history .. .. .	101
G. South Africa: History, Geography, Literature, etc.	663
H. Mental and Moral philosophy .. .. .	60
J. Social science .. .. .	165
K. Miscellaneous (Sports and pastimes, Mechanical arts, Arms and armour, Costume, Gastronomy, Encyclo- paedias) .. .. .	91
	<hr/>
	4,508
	<hr/>

The existence of a printed catalogue makes it only necessary to draw attention to some of the most notable items which will be done in the order of the above classes.

#### A. Languages and Literature

Most of the classical authors are represented in the Collection, as are the standard English ones. Foreign writers however appear largely in translation which suggests that Fairbridge was no great linguist.

The Library has the first editions of Pope's works in fifteen volumes, published between 1717 and 1735, but an additional copy of the *Odyssey of Homer*—London, Bernard Lintot, 1725-26, 5v.—bears the inscription "To the Rev<sup>d</sup>. Mr. Pilkington from his affectionate servant, Alex. Pope. Sept. 9 1733."

A rare item is:

Swinburne (Algernon Charles)

*Atalanta in Calydon*: a tragedy. London, Edward Moxon & Co., 1865.  
[ii], xii, 111 p.

Only a hundred copies of this first edition were published and already in the 1890's it was described as excessively scarce. The cover—cream buckram with gilt ornamentation—was designed by D. G. Rossetti. Fairbridge's copy has a small photographic portrait of Swinburne pasted in on the verso of the half-title.

The Shakespearean section is particularly strong, numbering over 130 volumes. A few of these came from the library of James L. Fitzpatrick, editor of the *Cape literary magazine*, whose executor Fairbridge was. When he died in April 1851—by his own hand—he was described as possessing the finest Shakespearean collection in the Colony.<sup>9</sup> His bookplate is found in some volumes.

### B. Fine Arts

The Fine Art section need not greatly concern us. It contains a number of standard works and albums of engravings. It is remarkable that in a library of this period the works of Ruskin do not feature either in this or the Literature section. Numismatics, Gemology and—more important—Bibliography feature here, apart from such expected items as Lowndes' *The Bibliographer's manual* and Brunet's *Manuel du Libraire*, the most important are several beautiful editions of the works of Thomas Frognall Dibdin, the Earl Spencer's librarian and editor of the enlarged edition of Ames' *Typographical antiquities*. These are: *Bibliotheca Spenceriana; or a descriptive catalogue of the books printed in the XVth century and of many valuable first editions, in the library of George John Earl Spencer*, 1814-23, 5v.; *The bibliographical Decameron*, 1817, 3v.; *A bibliographical, antiquarian, and picturesque tour in France and Germany*, 1821, 3v.; *Aedes Althorpianae; or an account of the mansion, books, and pictures at Althorp, the residence of George John Earl Spencer . . .* 1822, 2v.; *An introduction to the knowledge of rare and valuable editions of the Greek and Latin classics*, 1827, 2v.; and finally *Bibliomania; or book madness; a bibliographical romance . . . new ed.* 1876.

The Althorp Library, it will be remembered, was purchased for the John Rylands Library in 1892 for nearly a quarter of a million pounds.

### C. History

As can be seen, the History section is one of the largest, including as it does many volumes of biography.

Notable among general works is Louis Moreri's *Le grand dictionnaire historique, ou La mélange curieux de l'histoire sacrée et profane . . .* [with supplements] *nouvelle et dernière ed.*, Paris, 1725-49, 10v. The section is most remarkable however for the number of out of the way items, such as:

Chiappini (Maria Stella Petronella) [*Baroness Newborough*]

Maria Stella, ou Échange criminel d'une demoiselle du plus haut rang, contre un garçon de la condition la plus vile. 3me éd. Paris, 1838.  
viii, 222p.

This lady was the daughter of Lorenzo Chiappini, an innkeeper and former gaoler of Modigliana in Tuscany. She put forward in this book, the first

<sup>9</sup> See *Cape monitor*, 4/4/1851. I am indebted to Mr. S. A. Rochlin for this reference.

edition of which appeared in 1829, the amazing claim to be the legitimate daughter of Louis Philippe, Duke of Orleans, changed at birth (1773) for a male child who afterwards became Louis-Philippe, king of France (1830-1848). Her story did receive some support but has generally been exploded on chronological grounds alone. She married as his second wife the first Baron Newborough in 1786 and was the mother of both the 2nd and 3rd Barons. Hers was scarcely a happy marriage and after the 1st Baron died in 1807, she married a Russian nobleman, dying herself in 1843. Her brother, Antonio Chiappini, settled at the Cape with the financial assistance of Lord Newborough and as early as 1806 had established himself as a merchant in Cape Town.<sup>10</sup>

Other unusual items are three Tracts in one volume relating to Scottish affairs. The first—*Superiority of the Crown of England over the Crown of Scotland reasserted*, by William Atwood, London, 1705—is stated by Lowndes to have been ordered to be burnt in Scotland by the public hangman. The second tract is *A vindication of the government of Scotland during the reign of King Charles II*, by Sir George Mackenzie, late Lord Advocate there, 1691. This Mackenzie was much reviled for his harsh treatment of the Covenanters and here endeavours to present his excuse. The final pamphlet is *A memorial for His Highness the Prince of Orange in relation to the affairs of Scotland*, by two persons of quality. London, 1689. The authors are identified as the same Sir George Mackenzie as the above, in conjunction with another of the same name who was raised to the peerage as Viscount Tarbat.

Of a very different kind is an amusing little work entitled: *The lives and exploits of banditti and robbers in all parts of the world*, by C. Mac Farlane, 1833, 2v. cr. 8vo. These volumes are illustrated by a series of attractive steel engravings.

Among the many biographical works the presence should be mentioned of the valuable *Lives of the Lindsays, or a memoir of the houses of Crawford and Balcarres*, by Lord Lindsay [2nd ed.], 1849, 3v. The author was Alexander, afterwards 25th earl of Crawford, and his work is of special interest to us

<sup>10</sup> See Cockayne's *Complete peerage*, v.9, p.509n. and Payne-Gallwey (*Sir R.*) *The mystery of Maria Stella, Lady Newborough*. Antonio Chiappini, progenitor of the South African family, is mentioned by his sister on p.40 of her book. He went first to Calcutta and then to the Cape where he married the daughter of the Danish Consul to whom Lord N. had given him an introduction. He is said to have had fourteen children and to have gone into partnership with his brother-in-law (P. Heugh). His first advertisement traced in the *Cape Gazette* is for Feb. 8, 1806. There is no evidence of further contact between him and his sister Maria Stella, but another sister, Maria Jacoba, who married the Rev. Walter Wilkins (afterwards de Winton), is mentioned in some interesting letters from his son Edward Lorenzo to the 3rd Lord N. in the possession of the Library. Frances Maria, the Wilkins' daughter, married her first cousin, Spencer 3rd Lord N. with whom the Cape Chiappinis seem to have been on the best of terms. Other sons mentioned in the letters are Alexander, Peter and Lorenzo. Edward and Alexander were in business, Peter became a doctor and Lorenzo a land surveyor in Grahamstown with leanings towards a military career. He saw service in the Kaffir War of 1834-35 and there is a letter from him while patrolling near Debe Nek.

containing, as it does, much about Lady Anne Barnard, a Lindsay before her marriage. It is from this book that we have the authority for her authorship of *Auld Robin Gray*, and it also contains *Extracts from the journal of a residence at the Cape of Good Hope and of a short tour into the interior . . . addressed to her sisters in England*. The rest of this journal, still in the possession of the Lindsay family, has never been published.

An interesting and exceedingly rare St. Helena item is *Narrative of proceedings connected with the exhumation and removal of the remains of the late Emperor Napoleon. By a resident. St. Helena, printed for the proprietor, by William Bateman, 1840. 23p.* A description of it by Mr. G. C. Kitching is given in Q.B. 1(4): 106-10, June 1947, where the author is identified as William Janisch, secretary to the French Vice-Consul on the island. The pamphlet gives a reliable account of what took place when the tomb was opened at Longwood and the body of the ex-Emperor removed for reinterment in Paris.

One should also mention the five volumes of Sir John Fenn's original edition of the Paston letters, published under the title: *Original letters written during the reigns of Henry VI, Edward IV and Richard III, by various persons of rank and consequence . . . London, 1787-1823.*

Probably the most valuable genealogical work is:

Ferwerda (Abraham). *Adelyk en aanzienelyk wapen-boek van de Zeven Provinciën: waarby gevoegt zyn een groot aantal genealogien van voorname adelyke en aanzienlyke familien . . . Leeuwarden, 1760-73. 3v. fol.*

Many familiar names appear here such as Overbeke, Steyn, van Royen and Van Wyk, and there are fifty-five hand-coloured plates each bearing nine coats-of-arms.

### **Oriental works**

Mention was made in Pt.I (p.34) of the number of Indian and Oriental books in the Library due to certain Indian connections. These, it should be recorded, include thirty-eight volumes published in the 1830's and 40's by the Oriental Translation Fund and appear in the Catalogue under the heading "Oriental history and literature".

### **D. Geography**

The Geography section contains as fine a collection of travels as any private library can boast. Churchill (6v., 1732), Pinkerton (17v., 1808-14), Valentijn (8v. in 5, 1724-26) and van der Aa (8v., 1727) being a library in themselves. To these can be added Anson, Bruce, Cook, Hawksworth, Forster, Flinders and many more covering all the known world. Africa naturally receives much attention but the Americas, Australasia and the Orient are also well repre-

sented. The 1623 folio edition of Linschoten's *Itinerarium ofte Schip-vaert naer Oost often Portugaels Indien* is among the rarer items in this section, as is Spilbergen's 't *Historael journael van de Voyagie ghedaen met drie Schepen . . . naer d'Oost-Indien . . .* (1601-04, Amsterdam, 1648).

Of a different nature entirely are two little Strawberry Hill printings: *An account of Russia in 1710*, by Charles Lord Whitworth, 1758, and *A journey into England*, by Paul Hentzner, 1757, both produced in small editions by Horace Walpole.

#### E. Natural Science and Mathematics

Though one of the smaller sections this is nevertheless a valuable one covering Anthropology, Zoology, Botany, Geology, Chemistry and Physics, Astronomy and Mathematics. In spite of the collector's known interest in botany, the zoological section is much the largest and contains early editions of Darwin and Huxley and the forty volumes of Sir William Jardine's *Naturalist's library*, with its 1,200 coloured plates.

The most valuable item is most certainly:

Levaillant (François)

*Histoire naturelle des oiseaux d'Afrique*. Paris, J. J. Fuchs, 1799-1802; Delachaussee, 1805-1808

6v. 300 col. plates. Roy. 4to.

The binding of this work varies greatly in different copies. Here the text is in three volumes and the plates in a separate three with Ms. title-pages supplied. The engravings are printed in colour and are said to include a number of faked birds which only the naturalist himself had ever heard of!

Another zoological work not to be overlooked is Edward Donovan's *The natural history of British insects*, 1792-1801, 10v. which contains 360 exquisite coloured engravings from life.

Under Botany, we find Jan Burman's *Rariorum Africanarum plantarum ad vivum delineatarum . . . [decades]*, Amsterdam, 1738-39, in perfect condition. Thunberg is also represented by his *Prodromus plantarum Capensium*, 1794-1800, and his *Flora Capensis* of 1807.

The astronomical works include Sir John Herschel's *Results of astronomical observations made during the years 1834-38, at the Cape of Good Hope*, published in 1847.

#### F. Theology and Ecclesiastical History

The small theological section consists largely of the collected works of the eminent English divines such as Arnold, Barrow, Channing, Fuller and Jeremy Taylor. All the principal theological works of Bishop Colenso are here, the "heretical" *Pentateuch and Book of Joshua critically examined*, 1863-79, 7v., bearing the inscription: "Ch. A. Fairbridge Esq. with kind

regards from J. W. Natal". Fairbridge's friendship with the Bishop is recorded in Pt.I, p.45 of this study.

There are numerous volumes of ecclesiastical history.

### G. South Africa

To do it justice, the South African section should have a whole article to itself and a future issue of this Bulletin may supply this want. As quoted above (p.78), at the time of his death Fairbridge's Africana collection was presumed to be the finest in the world. There is hardly one of the 18th and 19th century travellers that one can name that is not to be found on the shelves, and a good selection of the 17th century seafarers as well. One of the rarest items is the original Swedish edition of Sparrman, *Resa till Goda Hopps-Udden, södra pol-kretsen och omkring jordklotet, samt till Hottentot- och Caffer-Landen ären*, 1772-76, Stockholm, 1783-1802, 2v. For a full description of this see Q.B. 1(2): 42-44, Dec. 1946. Volume II, dealing with Cook's second voyage to the Pacific, is excessively rare and when the Golden Cockerel Press wished to publish a translation of it in 1944, no copy could be found in London. Fairbridge's copy formerly belonged to one C. W. König.

Another rare item is the *Klare besgryving van Cabo de Bona Esperança* of Jodocus Hondius, Amsterdam, 1652, of which a fascimile reprint was issued at the time of the van Riebeeck Festival. A copy has recently come to light in the National Museum in Bloemfontein.

The large coloured plate books are well represented, notably Angus's *Kaffirs illustrated*, Daniell's *African scenery* and Cornwallis Harris's *Portraits of the game and wild animals of South Africa*. The Daniell item was actually missing when the collection came to the South African Library, but Sir Abe Bailey promised to make good the deficiency. This he did in January 1933, so that the copy we have is not Fairbridge's.

Among the more unusual type of items is the report of the court martial in January 1810, when Captains Ryan and Burke Nicholls were charged with being principal and second in a duel with Thos. Patullo, paymaster of the 93rd Regiment. The history of this sensational affair is given by Mr. A. C. G. Lloyd in Q.B. 5(2):41-2, December 1950. The defences in this case were written by one Laurence Hynes Halloran, chaplain of the forces at the Cape who was later revealed as a bogus parson and a thorough rogue. This leads us to another rare item: *Proceedings, including original correspondence, official documents, exhibits [etc.] from the records of the Court of Justice at the Cape of Good Hope in a criminal process for libel instituted at the suit of Lt-Gen. the Hon. H. G. Grey . . . against Laurence Halloran, D.D. late chaplain to H.M. forces . . . in South Africa*. London, 1811. The story of this case has also been fully written up.<sup>11</sup> Halloran was found guilty and banished from the

<sup>11</sup> See *Cape law journal*, 36:17-25, 1919.



RESA



Till

Goda Hopps - Udden,  
Södra Pol-kretsen

och

Omkring Jordklotet,

samt till

Hottentott- och Caffer-Landen,

Åren 1772 — 76.

AF

ANDERS SPARRMAN,

*Dokt. och Prof. i Medic. samt Assess.  
i Kongl. Colk. Medic. Ledamot af  
Kongl. Vettensk. Akad. m. m.*

— \* —  
Andra Delen.

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STOCKHOLM,

Tryckt hos CARL DELÉN, 1802.

Title-page of the second volume of the original Swedish edition of Sparrman's *Voyage to the Cape of Good Hope, towards the Antarctic Polar Circle and round the World*, one of the rarest items in the Fairbridge Collection.



Fairbridge's second book-plate (c.1850) and the first to bear the family arms, later differenced.

I paid Jutta £ 5 for  
this book - unbound.  
CAF

deposited by me on opening this wing.

*Wm. Hertzog*  
12 May 1921.

Inscription on the fly-leaf of the Fairbridge copy of the *Klare besgryving van Cabo de Bona Esperança*, 1652. The pencil note reads: "I paid Jutta £5 for this book—unbound, C A F". Below is General Hertzog's inscription.

Colony. A few years later he was again in trouble and published his *Newgate; or Desultory sketches in a prison . . . a poem by Laurence Halloran, at present prisoner in H.M. Gaol of Newgate, under sentence of transportation for seven years on a charge of having defrauded the Post Office revenue of the sum of "ten-pence" by counterfeiting a frank! London, 1818*, which was sold "for the benefit of his numerous young family".

There are naturally many Cape imprints, one of the rarest being: *Narrative of the life of a Gentleman long resident in India; comprehending a period the most eventful in the history of the country with regard to the revolution occasioned by European interference, and interspersed with interesting anecdotes etc. Cape of Good Hope, printed for the author, 1814*. This was for some time regarded as the first book in English printed at the Cape, and is so described in the Fairbridge Catalogue. It cannot lay claim to this honour by several years however.<sup>12</sup> The author has been identified, with the assistance of Barrow,<sup>13</sup> as George Francis Grand, a Swiss, formerly of the Honourable East India Company's Service who became a privy councillor at the Cape under the government of the Batavian Republic, 1803-06.

Other rare Cape items are Godlonton's *Memorials of the British settlers of South Africa . . . Graham's Town, 1844*, and all that was ever published of Moodie's *Records*, 1838-41.

In view of Fairbridge's essay in the bibliography of Cape pamphlets, it is not surprising that he himself should have a large selection. These are bound in fifteen volumes entitled *Cape pamphlets*, with sub-titles such as *Politics, Colenso controversy, Copper, gold and diamonds, Cape press and Statistics*. Another two volumes are labelled *Cape trials*. These contain many valuable items from the 1820's to the 1890's.

Of the remaining sections we need say little, except to remark that for a lawyer the legal portion of the Library is somewhat thin, with the exception of trials and prosecutions which include not only *Cobbett's Complete collection of State trials* but many others. One must assume that for the day to day conduct of his profession he depended upon his office library.

#### Fine printing

The Collection contains several examples of the products of famous presses and of these those from Strawberry Hill have already been mentioned. There is also a Plantin Horace, printed by Johannes Moretus at Antwerp in 1608, and five 17th century Elzevirs, viz. Buchanan's *Poemata quae extant*, Leiden, 1628, Terence's *Comoediae*, 1635, Erasmus' *Colloquia*, 1650, Vossius' *Etymologicon linguae Latinae*, 1662, and Peterculus' works, 1678.

Baskerville is represented by a fine copy of the four volume royal 4to edition of Addison's *Works*, 1761.

<sup>12</sup> Ross's *The African court calendar for MDCCCVII* must hold this position.

<sup>13</sup> See *Travels*, 2nd ed., v.1, p.425-26.

A less known private press was that of Sir Egerton Brydges, Bt. at Lee Priory, near Canterbury, which was operated from 1813 to 1823 by John Johnson (author of *Typographia* also in the Collection) and John Warwick. Forty-five items issued from this press and of these Fairbridge managed to obtain the edition of Nicholas Breton's *Melancholike humours*, 1815, royal 4to. Only 100 copies were printed.

#### IV BINDING

It was Charles Fairbridge's ambition to have all his books bound in full leather, but that, even in his day, was beyond his means. Nearly all those not already fully bound however he had done in half-leather—usually calf—in several styles of varying beauty. Some, as noted above, were bound in England before shipment, but many were done in Cape Town by one or other of the following firms.

The Argus Printing & Publishing Co. Ltd.

Murray & St. Leger

Robert Scott

Saul Solomon & Co.

Of these probably the majority are from the press of Robert Scott who carried on business at various addresses in Cape Town from about 1856 to 1876. He could produce a fine job with beautifully tooled spine. Most of the colonial binding however is solid and undecorated. One volume in particular however must be singled out, bound in red morocco by Saul Solomon & Co. This is the Gustav Doré Imp. 4to edition of Dantë's *Inferno* (Cary's translation) published in 1866. In addition to restrained gilt tooling there is the monogram 'C.A.F.', 3½ in. square on the front board, the C inlaid in blue leather, the A in black and the F gilded. The edges are also gilded and tooled.

#### V BOOKPLATES AND THE FAIRBRIDGE ARMS

The majority of the volumes in the Collection contain the Fairbridge bookplate. There are as many as four varieties of this however. Apart from the earliest one which has the initials 'C.A.F.' only below a badge bearing the Fairbridge and Traill crests—his paternal grandmother was a Traill of Orkney, it will be remembered—they all feature the Fairbridge arms in differing styles. From their style and the books in which they are found one can fairly safely arrange them in order of age. Charles Fairbridge slightly differenced

his armorial bearings during his life. The earliest form is as follows (c.1850):—

Quarterly:

*1st and 4th:* Or, in chief two fleurs de lys gules, in base a martlet sable, for *Fairbridge*;

*2nd and 3rd:* Argent, a chevron between two mascles in chief and a trefoil slipped in base all within a bordure engrailed gules, for *Traill of Orkney*.

Crest: a poppinjay gules (Fairbridge).

Motto: *Discrimine Salus* (Traill).

These arms were used in the second bookplate only, the motto being on a scroll below the shield. They are also depicted thus in a coloured representation, presented by Mr. R. F. Currey, which hangs in the lobby of the Fairbridge wing, though there the Traill crest of a Column on fire in the sea proper is included, as well as the Fairbridge poppinjay.

The third and fourth bookplates however give the arms thus:

Quarterly:

*1st and 4th:* As above;

*2nd and 3rd:* Azure, a chevron between two mascles in chief and a trefoil slipped in base all within a bordure wavy argent.

Crest and motto as above.

The third bookplate (c.1870-80), as is the second, is engraved and has the motto on a circular scroll round the shield and crest, while the fourth is a wood-engraving with the motto above the crest.<sup>14</sup>

Reference to Fox-Davies's *Armorial families*, 7th ed., p.1955, shows that in 1902 the arms of Traill of Holland (Orkney) were registered as:

Azure, a chevron between two mascles in chief or, and a trefoil slipped in base argent.

Crest—On a wreath of his liveries a beacon tower issuing from waves of the sea proper.

Motto: "Discrimine salus".

## VI

### LATER HISTORY OF THE COLLECTION

After the death of Charles Aken Fairbridge his library in the terms of his will (dated 26th March 1892)—a simple document for such a well-to-do man—was bequeathed to his widow. She was his sole legatee and the only rider was that his personal effects should be divided among his children at her discretion. She continued to live at "Mimosas" until her son built a new house

<sup>14</sup> I am indebted to Mr. F. L. Alexander for information regarding techniques employed and the probable dates of execution.

in what is now Monmouth Avenue, Claremont. This was called "Paradise" after the old estate "Paradys". The ruins of Lady Anne Barnard's country retreat lie in the neighbourhood. There was however no room in the house capable of accommodating 7,000 books and these remained at "Mimosas", which was let, for some years. Mrs. Fairbridge died in 1912 and about the year 1915 the old home was sold and a special room had to be built on to "Paradise" to house the Collection. It is interesting to note that pending the completion of this work, the S.A. Public Library gave hospitality to the books and they were stored in packing cases in the basement for two years.

Mr. William George Fairbridge, Charles's only son, died on the 4th January 1925, leaving his sister Dorothea in possession of "Paradise" and his father's library. It so happened that one of her greatest friends, Lord Milner, was at that time paying his last visit to South Africa shortly before his death, and she was able to discuss the question of the Collection's future with him. It was agreed that it must be sold and Mr. A. C. G. Lloyd, then Librarian of the S.A. Public Library, affirms that Milner was anxious that it go to Rhodes University College, Grahamstown. Mr. Lloyd, however, as soon as he heard from Miss Fairbridge that the Collection was coming into the market, determined to secure it if only a liberal benefactor could be found, for he knew it well and had no illusions as to its current value—a figure far above the Library's meagre resources.

The benefactor was found in the person of Sir Abe Bailey, Bt. (1864-1940), the mining magnate, who not only expressed his willingness to buy the Collection as it stood for the sum of £5,000, and present it to the S.A. Public Library, but further to contribute a considerable sum towards the erection of a new wing to house it.

It was with much satisfaction that Mr. Lloyd was able to report in these terms to the Board of Trustees on 29th April 1925.

At that time Sir Abe also had the intention of donating his own library and that of his friend and colleague Sir Julius Jeppe (1859-1929), together with a newly acquired collection of Somerset papers. Of this however nothing more was ever heard. The Bailey Library, which included Jeppe's books, remained at his Muizenberg house "Rust-en-Vrede" until it was sold in 1950. Of the Somerset papers nothing is known.

On observing the well-proportioned lines of the Fairbridge wing to-day, one may be relieved that the generous donor's first conception of it as "a miniature Groote Schuur" was not realised! Fortunately Sir Abe changed his mind and in a Memorandum of his intentions presented to the Board on May 20th, he stipulated a building "in consonance with its surroundings" to be approved by Mr. Patrick Duncan, M.L.A. as his representative and for which he would make a contribution of not over £7,300. Ample provision was to be made for further additions during his lifetime. The other clauses in



this Memorandum laid down that General Hertzog (the Prime Minister) should be asked to lay the foundation stone, that certain days should be reserved each week for the use of the Collection by students from the Universities of Cape Town and Stellenbosch and from the Diocesan College, Rondebosch, in view of his desire to be of assistance to the young of the nation, and finally that the work should be put in hand as speedily as possible.

The Public Works Department was asked to prepare plans which it did most expeditiously and in little more than two months, those for a three storied building—semi-basement, main hall with lobby and stackroom above—were approved by the Board of Trustees. A delay of over seven months then followed while tenders were invited, for it was not until March 1926, after conversations between the Librarian, Sir Abe, Sir Thomas Muir and Mr. J. W. Jagger, that it was possible to report that the tender of Messrs. Brice Bros. for £7,105 had been accepted. Building actually began at the beginning of May. There is no record of any foundation-stone laying—and certainly no stone is evident to-day.<sup>15</sup> It was agreed that the following wording be engraved over the entrance to the wing on Government Avenue:

THE FAIRBRIDGE LIBRARY  
PRESENTED BY  
SIR ABE BAILEY BART, K.C.M.G.  
1926

The work progressed normally and in January the following year the Board approved the expenditure of £200 on furniture and shelving. In February the building was virtually completed and the Librarian was pleased to be able to announce a saving of about £300 on the original estimate. The books arrived from "Paradise" in the third week of March and with what mixed feelings must Dorothea Fairbridge have seen them go. They fitted into the main hall of the wing with the exception of some 1,200 volumes, mostly in poorer condition, which were shelved in the stacks. The building and contents were insured for £12,000.

Early in May 1927 Sir Abe wrote to Sir Carruthers Beattie, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, formally handing over the Collection to him, confirming the condition that three days a week admission should be reserved for students and further laying down that no book should be allowed to leave the building. Whilst this last provision has been adhered to, small advantage ever seems to have been taken of the former.

So it was that on May 12th 1927 the Prime Minister of the Union, General J. B. M. Hertzog, formally opened the Fairbridge Library. Those present

<sup>15</sup> There is no record of the stone laid for the main library building by Sir George Grey in 1858, although the trowel he used is preserved.

included the benefactor himself, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees (Sir J. Carruthers Beattie), General Smuts, Mr. J. W. Jagger, the Hon. Henry Burton, the Archbishop of Cape Town (Dr. Carter), the Mayor of Cape Town (Mr. W. F. Fish), and Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Fairbridge—the only representatives of the family it would appear, as there is no reference in the press reports to the presence of Miss Dorothea Fairbridge.

Speeches were made by Sir Abe and Sir Carruthers as well as the Prime Minister who also suitably inscribed and placed on the shelves a copy of the very rare *Klare besgryving van Cabo de Bona Esperança*, 1652, a little book which presented to the world all that was known of the Cape in the year that Jan van Riebeeck dropped anchor in Table Bay.

The story of the Collection is nearly ended. All that need be added is to report that in the following August, as a result of the additional burden that the staffing of the new wing caused, the Board approved the expenditure of an additional £6 per month on "temporary assistance"—and in 1927, it is to be presumed that at that figure it was forthcoming!

## VII FAIRBRIDGE RELATIVES

Of Charles's children and grandchildren we have already made mention, but something should be said of other relatives who have achieved celebrity.

His eldest sister Sarah (1826-1881) married the Hon. John Bird of Natal (1815-1896), author of the *Annals of Natal*, and they had eleven children. His younger brother William Armstrong (1832-1865) who married Charlotte Beresford, was the father of William Ernest Fairbridge (1863-1943) pioneer of Southern Rhodesia. The latter was the founder and first editor of both the *Rhodesia Herald* (1892) and the *Bulawayo Chronicle* (1894). He became the first mayor of Salisbury and hence the Fairbridge motto "discrimine salus" appears in the Salisbury arms. He was later General Manager of the Argus Printing & Publishing Co.

Another nephew, Dr. Francis Seymour Matthews Fairbridge, F.R.C.S. (1865-1933), son of the youngest of Charles's brothers, Francis Seymour (1836-1877), was also a well-known bibliophile who had an extensive library at Carnarvon, C.P. where he retired and died a Justice of the Peace. He is particularly to be remembered for having saved his nephew Kingsley from drowning when a boy.

Kingsley Ogilvie Fairbridge (1885-1924)—that most famous of all Fairbridge's—was the son of Rhys Seymour, government land surveyor and eldest brother of Dr. Seymour Fairbridge, and of his wife Rosalie Ogilvie. He was thus Charles's great-nephew. Cut off in his prime he yet left us his *Autobio-*

graphy and poems of a high order. He is best known for his work in founding the Child Emigration Society and the Fairbridge Farm Schools. He went to Rhodesia as a boy and there conceived the idea which he put into effect while still at Oxford. In 1912 he settled in Western Australia establishing his farm for orphan boys at Pinjarra—the first of several. His plans were followed in other Dominions after his death and the Fairbridge Memorial College was founded in Southern Rhodesia in 1945.<sup>16</sup>

A. M. LEWIN ROBINSON

<sup>16</sup> See Fairbridge (Ruby) *Fairbridge farm: the building of a farm school, Perth, W. A., Paterson press, 1948.*

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Supplementing the Handlist of South African Periodicals received under the Copyright Act, current in December 1951

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**Die Kruithoring**, die nasionale strydblad is being published monthly as from January, 1955. M.

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(N.B.—On account of shortage of space, Government Publications are listed in English and Afrikaans in alternate issues, with reference to the edition in the other language. *Eng. & Afr.* indicates that the English and Afrikaans versions are printed together in one volume. *Afr. uitgawe* and *English edition* refer to the separately-published Afrikaans and English editions. Sub-headings are given in both languages. In this issue the main entries are in English; in the next they will be in Afrikaans.—Ed.)

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U.G.-49. [Department of health]. Joint annual report of the national housing and planning commission, and the national housing office for the year 1951. Pretoria,

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U.G.-12. Department of education, arts and science. Annual report for the calendar year 1952. Pretoria, G.P., 1954. 13/6. [v]6-81 p. tables.

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U.G.-39. Commissioner of the South African police. Annual report for the year 1953. Pretoria, G.P., 1954. 4/-. [iii]2-17 p. tables. *Afr. uitgawe* [iii]2-17 p.

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U.G.-42. Department of lands. Report for the year ended 31st March, 1953. Pretoria, G.P., 1954. 8/3. [v]6-31 p. tables (1 fold.). *Afr. uitgawe* [v]6-32 p.

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U.G.-45. Registrar of Banks. Eighth annual report; period ended 31st December, 1953. Pretoria, G.P., 1954. 3/9. [iii]4-32 p. tables. *Afr. uitgawe* [iii]4-32 p.

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U.G.-48. **Part I of the report of the Controller and auditor-general for the financial year 1953-54** on the Appropriation accounts and miscellaneous accounts (exclusive of Railways and harbours) and the finance statements. Pretoria, G.P., 1954. £1.1.6. [vii]8-171 p. tables.

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*Eng. & Afr.*

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U.G.-57. **South African railways.** Annual report of the Controller and auditor-general on the South African railways accounts for the financial year 1953-54 and statement of accounts. Pretoria, G.P., [1954]. £2.16.0. [i]ii-xix, [ii]2-267, [i]269-439 p. tables.

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*Mimeographed.*



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## Buro vir sensus en statistiek

Monthly bulletin of statistics. Nov.1954—  
Jan.1955. Pretoria, G.P., 1/- p.c.

*Eng. & Afr.*

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A manual for milk testers; compiled by C. P. Greyling and J. J. du Toit. Pretoria, G.P., 1954. 1/-. [ii]iii-iv, [i]2-64 p. front., illus., tables, bibliography.

(Stellenbosch-Elsenburg series no.172. Bulletin no.319).

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## Department of commerce and industries.

## Natural resources development council

## Departement van handel en nywerheid.

## Raad vir die ontwikkeling van natuurlike hulpbronne

(Beheerde gebied no.2: Aitikel 14 van Wet no.51 van 1947).

Opname van die Klerksdorpse goudmyn-gebied; onderneem deur die Potchefstroomse Universiteit vir C.H.O. Pretoria, Staatsdr., 1954. [i]2-26 p. diagrs., tables.

*Afr. only.*

*Reprinted from "Handel en Nywerheid" Oktober, 1954.*

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areas of South Africa, by Dr. F. W. Quass. Pretoria, G.P., 1954. 10 p. maps, tables.

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*Reprinted from "Commerce and Industry", December, 1954*

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Monthly abstract of trade statistics [for the] Union of South Africa and South-West Africa. Aug.1954—Sept.1954. Pretoria, G.P. 3/6 p.c.

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Standing orders of the House of Assembly. Vol.I—Public business. Parow, Cape Times, 1955. [iii]iv-xi, [i]xiii, [i]2-206 p. tables.

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## Orange Free State/Oranje-Vrystaat.

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## Transvaal. Local authorities/Plaaslike owerhede.

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Union legislation affecting South West Africa and proclamations, ordinances and principal government notices issued in South West Africa during 1953. Windhoek, Meinert, 1954. [vii]viii-lxxxiii,[ii]2-649 p. table(fold.) *Eng. & Afr.*

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**Goolooze, William.** Oorwinning oor lyding: vertaal deur J. Ligthelm: woorde van troos

en bemoeding vir siekies en bedroefdes; met 'n wood vooraf deur Dr. J. Waterink, Dr. J. A. Schutte en Dr. F. J. M. Potgieter. Middelburg, Tvl., Ligthelm, [1954]. [iv], 5-118[2] p. 19½cm. (248)  
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